



TASK FORCE FALCON



# Falcon Flier

Volume 6, Issue 5

Produced for the personnel of Task Force Falcon

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## What's Inside...



### Gifts from the Far East...

Infantry soldiers bring gifts from Japan to local children.

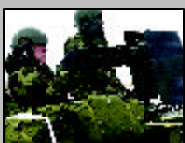
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Buckeye native forecasts weather for TFF.

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Check out soldiers in action in the best of Combat Camera.

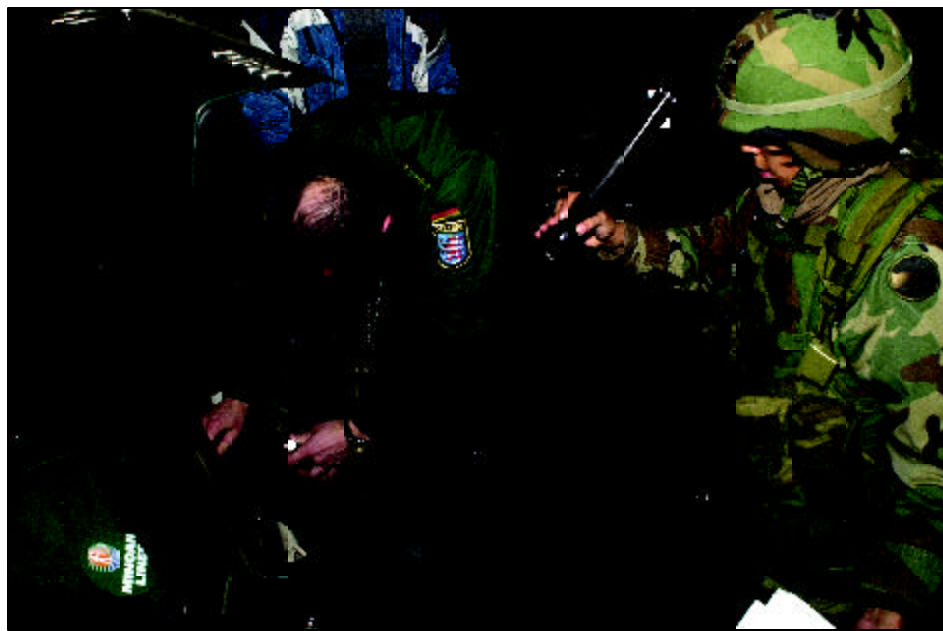
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### Happy New Year...

Soldiers ring in 2002 with festivities.

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Pfc. Vanessa Botello, a military policeman in the 209th MP Co. (TF 504th) helps a UN Civilian Police officer search a car trunk. The car had been stopped during a patrol of Kamenica for curfew violation.

## TF 504th MP's enforce stricter curfew, strengthen presence in Kosovska Kamencia after tensions rise

by Spc. Bill Putnam  
Staff Writer

**KOSOVSKA**  
KAMENICA, Kosovo—Like he'd done every morning for years, Dragolub Markovic, one of the few Serb grocers in this normally tranquil, ethnically mixed town, started to open his shop for the day on Jan. 6. As he went about his rounds, something inside the store exploded.

The explosion mortally wounded him. What's under investigation is how the explosive got there.

Almost immediately KFOR Military Police, UN Civilian Police, and Kosovo Police Service officers responded and saw a mortally wounded Markovic, his wife and mother pleading for someone to help him as the scene was secured from a growing crowd outside.

Inside the store, Markovic lay in a puddle of blood, with a large abdominal wound and

most of his left arm missing below the elbow. A local doctor pronounced him dead at 8:55 a.m. at the scene.

His death is the culmination of a two-week period of violence that started just before New Years.

On New Years Eve, an altercation occurred between several Serbian and Albanian youths. Two K-Serb teenagers were charged. One received a 60-day sentence; the other received a 15-day sentence. The other two fled the province.

A few days later two families were driving through predominantly another part of town. Pipes, and bottles were thrown at the vehicles, in the same time frame, two explosive devices were detonated.

Then on market day, five juveniles attacked three patrons at the weekly market. One individual was hit on the head with a doorknob. He was later treated and released from a local hospital.

To curb the escalating level of violence, the Commander of the 13th Tactical Group, Col. Sergey Ziara imposed a stricter curfew from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. The old curfew ran from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

An additional platoon from the 209th Military Police Company (TF 504th MP) was deployed to the Kamenica Sub-Station, the KFOR-run substation in the CivPol and KPS station, to help enforce this new curfew.

The 1st Platoon, 66th MP Company (TF 504th MP), and their civilian counterparts in the KPS and CivPol are patrolling day and night in an attempt to stop the violence.

On Jan. 8, a joint patrol from the 209th MPs, the Civilian Police, and Kosovo Police Service headed out for a patrol through the town.

It turned out to be busier than Sgt. David Raynes and his team of MPs expected. They

had two curfew violators and escorted a sick man to his doctor.

During their patrol a CivPol vehicle spotted a car violating the curfew.

It turned out the man driving some of his sister's family home wasn't from Kamenica and didn't know about the curfew.

After filling out paperwork to verify he owned the car, had insurance, and following the man to the sister's residence, the MPs saw a man walking home.

When questioned, the elderly man feigned any knowledge of the curfew. He lived only a block away and was sent on his way home.

"Think about it," Spc. James Garner said as the patrol drove off. "If you were out past curfew wouldn't you say you didn't know about it?" (Please see **KOSOVSKA KAMENICA**, page 15)

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## TFF Commanding General

# Situational awareness: all cats are black at night



Brig. Gen. Keith M. Huber

Situation Awareness requires the human operator to quickly detect, integrate and interpret data gathered from the environment. In many real-world conditions it is PERCEPTION VERSUS REALITY. This allows us to answer the most relevant question. WHY? WHY did this event occur? WHY didn't I anticipate this event? WHY did I respond in this fashion? WHY did I think this would work? WHY didn't it

work? WHY did the person respond that way? WHY didn't I see this coming?

In REALITY the most important question is WHY? Because once you determine the WHY, then you can truly address what the issue is, what the problem is, what the friction point is, and then your EXPECTATIONS and VIEW OF THE SITUATION can help determine how you can avoid it, control it, fight through it or sustain it in the future. Situational awareness has different perspectives caused by your View of the Situation, Incoming Information and Expectations of how people respond to the question of WHY.

What is your Situational Awareness about my comments in the Falcon Flier?

'WHY do we have a commander's column? WHY should I read the commander's comments in the Falcon Flier?' There are several reasons WHY. It will give you an expanded VIEW of the Situation and of what I am thinking. Incoming Information, as the staff and I know it. It may even answer your questions of WHY I have certain Expectations and Biases. With this in mind, Your View of the Situation might be one of "it reads as if someone's telling a story." It is just that discussion, a conversation that I have with our family in Task Force Falcon. I sit down with Sgt. (Jamie) Brown, and a tape recorder in my office, and he and I talk about the topic I want to discuss. The issues and concerns, and what our family should receive in this column. So in retrospect, this gives you Situational Awareness. These are my personal comments, my

personal conversation with our family. It's important that you understand what I think, and what concerns me. It is my View of the Situation, along with Incoming Information, and my Expectations. This article is not something that is prepared by one of my staff. It is what I am thinking, and what I believe is the current Situation we are all in.

If something doesn't look or feel right, then it probably isn't right! So as an individual, our situational awareness, you can look at it on two levels. You can look at it on the tactical level, and on an emotional level.

Just as the person who walks into a room at night, and does not turn on the light. You attempt to use your senses to gain Situational Awareness of what is inside the room, and who might be inside the room, and once you have Situational Awareness now you can safely move in that room without the benefit of the lights. There is a relationship to the events in time, the people and the locations around you.

As we move up from an individual status to being a member of a team, we look at Situational Awareness from a different perspective. A clear example is the presence patrol. It is a team on the streets of a city with the responsibility of maintaining security and stability. As that patrol prepares to move out, their Situational Awareness is heightened because they know the terrain, the town and the people. They are able, at a glance, to understand what normal looks like, and when things are out of place. And their instincts take over, because of the depth and maturity of their Situational Awareness. It's only through Situational Awareness that they are able to distinguish between what is normal and what is not. So that instinctively they know: "If something doesn't look or feel right, then it probably isn't right!"

It is only Situational Awareness that allows that squad, on patrol, to be prepared to protect the people of Kosovo, their fellow soldiers, to anticipate, and to be able to respond, and diffuse the friction. So the squad, fire-team or individuals have this 360-degree Situational Awareness around them at all times, and they understand how they move as a squad, how they participate and contribute as a part of a team, and how they protect each other. And only through Situational Awareness do you know what looks right and what looks wrong, and then you can formulate a plan on how to respond.

Now we bring the Situational Awareness to the level of the leader. As I have said before; leadership is not defined by any certain rank, duty position or by a certain age. We are all leaders. We all have a responsibility for our own actions, and we are responsible for the actions of our extended family members. Every day there is someone who looks to one of us to see what the right thing to do is. That is the example of leadership. As a leader, you should look at situational awareness, at different levels. It may be at the tactical level, but probably more importantly it's at the emotional level.

The situational awareness of the leader is now force structure, civilian contractors support, reach back, systems development, current intel situations dispersed in the members of his team. He understands them, their capabilities, their strengths, their weaknesses, their level of experience, and their emotional levels. He creates a situation so that they can be successful. He understands them, the human dynamics, and that his role is to provide the resources to create the environment where all the members of his team can be successful. Everybody wants to be successful, and nobody wants to fail. Leadership situational awareness is 'how do I create an environment so that each one of these individuals as part of this team can therefore be successful?'

The importance of Situational Awareness: Yes all cats are black at night, all rooms are dark without the lights on, and it is our responsibility to be aware of our surroundings, to be aware of ourselves, to be aware for our fellow soldiers, so that we shed some light into those darkened rooms, to distinguish between black, gray and white cats, even at night, even when there is no visible light. Everyone should be in tune with our surroundings. Officers, NCOs and each of us should be in tune with each and every one of our soldiers.

We have lived up to our responsibility to be leaders and to be members of a successful team effort. So do not allow a day to go by that you have simply survived, that you have simply been on the Ranger patrol of life, putting one foot in front of the other, that you weren't paying attention to what was going on around you. And worse yet, that you weren't paying attention to what was going on inside of you. Be Situational Aware at all times. Climb to Glory ... To the Top

## TFF Command Sergeant Major

# Keep it simple, keep up the teamwork, and keep it safe



Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Walker

What now? We have just finished the first quarter of our mission here, made some adjustments in the way we do business, and have settled down into a battle rhythm. I want to remind you not to forget why we are here, and who we represent. Stay focused on the commander's intent in providing a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo, so that

one day they will be able to do for themselves and live in peace with one another.

How? I'm glad you asked. By having detailed plans for every mission or task assigned from team operations up to the Task Force level. Remember the KISS formula (keep it simple), and don't rush to failure. Communicate often, up, down, laterally, in all directions.

Do the hard-right over the easy-wrong. Discipline yourself, and your subordinates in carrying out the intent and spirit of orders and regulatory guidance.

Keep up the teamwork and cooperation. Continue more we and less I. We will accomplish

more this way in making things better for all.

Safety should always be in mind. Always conduct a risk assessment and hazard reduction in all that is done from walking around camp to going downrange. Check, recheck, double check and spot check.

Remain physically, spiritually and ethically fit. Finally, never forget that you are ambassador on point for the United States of America.

Remain true to the pledge you made to honor and maintain the highest military standards of professionalism.

### About the Falcon Flier...

The *Falcon Flier* newspaper is an official publication of Task Force Falcon and is used for the intent purpose of providing command information to servicemembers serving in the TFF area of operation. The *Falcon Flier* is produced by the 131st MPAD (Alabama Army National Guard), TFF PAO. Contents of the *Falcon Flier* newspaper are not necessarily official views, nor endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 10th Mountain Division. The *Falcon Flier* newspaper is published bimonthly, using offset press by the TFF Public Affairs office located in Building 1320, Camp Bondsteel. Submissions or story ideas related to the TFF mission are encouraged and should be directed to the editor at 781-5200; or by mail at HQ Task Force Falcon PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel APO AE 09340 or e-mail at taylor.barbaree@bondsteel2.areu.army.mil. Printed Circulation: 4,000.



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# Soldier on the Street

What is your New Year's resolution?



Spc. Valarie Arambulo,  
Personnel Service Specialist  
10th SSB  
(Camp Bondsteel)

"My New Year's resolution is to work on getting my college degree. Both while deployed and when I return to Fort Drum."



Sgt. Habill Saboor,  
ADADO NCOIC  
A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 62nd ADA  
(Camp Bondsteel)

"I want to become more physically fit and excel in my military career."



Special Agent John Rusyn,  
515th CID Det.  
(Camp Monteith)

"To lose some weight, because I'm going back to the real world in only three months."



Staff Sgt. Riggs Peoples,  
Fire Support NCO  
B Co., 1st Bn., 30th Inf. Reg.  
(Camp Monteith)

"To quit smoking. I've already cut down. I only smoked two yesterday."



Pfc. Monica LeCompte,  
ER Combat Medic  
TFMF V  
(Camp Bondsteel)

"I want to be more professional in the work place."



Spc. Eric Santiago,  
SGS Driver  
10th Mountain Division  
(Camp Bondsteel)

"My New Year's resolution is to be more open minded to other people's views and opinions."

— Compiled by TFF Falcon Flier Staff

## Commentary

### Resolutely resolving resolutions

by Sgt. Jamie Brown  
Senior Editor

"It sure is crowded in here." That was the first thought that entered my mind as we entered the packed gym the other night. Then a possible answer as to why the gym was crowded popped in my head, "It's a New Year."

I've seen this phenomenon before. The gym back home gets unusually crowded shortly after Jan. 1. This new-year fitness hysteria usually dies back down after a couple of weeks. New Year's resolutions are made and then broken.

New Year's resolutions have always intrigued me. The beginning of the New Year is a chance to reflect on the past year, and to think about things we'd like to improve about ourselves. Self-improvement is definitely a worthy goal, and one that is widespread. If you don't believe me, watch late-night cable television for a couple of hours. The screen is flooded with infomercials promising insight on how people can make their lives better. There's the guy who used to live in a one-room apartment, but after he learned the secrets to placing classified ads nationwide, he became a millionaire. And he's willing to share these secrets with you, out of the goodness of his heart, for a fee (I wonder if he made more money from his secrets, or from selling his secrets?). Then there's Tony Robbins, whose words of wisdom, according to his commercial, have helped people lead vital, dynamic lives. I have to sheepishly admit, that I myself have purchased, and read a Tony Robbins book. I found a lot of his words to be insightful, and useful.

But part of the problem with the whole self-improvement movement isn't the words and advice itself, although there I'm sure there is plenty of bad advice out there. Instead it's our attitude about that advice. I think it's in our nature to try to find an easy way out. "Work smarter, not harder," is a mantra that I've often heard, and it's definitely a good policy. I think sometimes, however, that we look to gain benefits without doing much work at all. When I was much younger, I worked at Sears, and I can't tell you how many dusty treadmills and other exercise machines I hauled from people's cars to the returns section. Sure, a treadmill or an ab-cruncher can do you some good, but you're still going to have to get on the thing to achieve any fitness goals you have. Tony Robbins may have some great advice, but you're still going to have to put forth a lot of effort, if you want to improve your life.

Self-improvement is also a continuous process. If you are really reasonable about things, how could you eat a Big-Mac meal, super-sized (with a Diet Coke of course) every day, and then expect to find a miracle ab machine, do it for a few seconds here and there, and then sport six-pack abs? But that's our nature. I've certainly been guilty of this crime myself. On my last deployment to the Balkans, I brought a book with me. The book was about how to become a speed-reader. I thought that I could read the book in a week or so, and then by some magic transformation, as if knowledge was being poured into my head, I would be able to fly through books in minutes, and I'd be one smart dude. I was bummed to find out that the book actually required me to work. It contained drills that were supposed to be practiced continually to improve reading skills. I practiced these drills for a while, amid the taunts of my friends. "It sure is taking you a long time to read that speed-reading book, ha ha," they'd say. And sure enough, after a while I gave up.

Self-improvement is a worthy goal and New Year's resolutions are a good thing. Sure I could throw you some clichés like "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," or "Life's a journey, not a destination." One of my favorite lyrics to a song is, "The sweetest part is acting after making a decision." But you've probably heard all of that stuff countless times. So, I think my New Year's resolution is going to be to actually follow-through on New Year's resolutions. So I encourage all you new-year's resolutionists not to abandon the gym just yet. Heck, the more the merrier, just save a bottle of water, and a couple of dumbbells for me.



*JVB is their name, escorting is their game...*

## Fort Drum element provides service to distinguished visitors of Task Force Falcon

by Spc. Taylor Barbaree  
Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL—Pop diva Mariah Carey. Chairman of the Joints Chief of Staff, Gen. Richard B. Meyers. Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki and most recently Congressman John McHugh (R-N.Y.). All have something in common. All have been escorted by Task Force Falcon's office of the Joint Visitor's Bureau (JVB).

"We provide them the opportunity to visit with the soldiers and personnel of Task Force Falcon. We also insure they are taken care of, and we connect them with their mode of transportation for their return departure (home)," said Capt. Onintza Wren, JVB OIC, referring to the office's mission at CBS.

Wren said her office receives their missions and notification of Distinguished Visitor's (DV's) coming to Kosovo from the Executive Services Division in USAREUR. The time frame and schedules of each person usually varies, she said.

"Sometimes we know a month in advance. Sometimes we only receive about two days notice. The itinerary of each DV is constantly changing, so we have to maintain a high level of flexibility."

To date, Wren noted, her office's toughest test came during its first 30 days.

"That was definitely a busy time for us," Wren said of the period beginning with the TFF TOA through Dec. 21st. "We escorted 38 DV's during that period. That really was a challenge for us."

"Most people may not realize our full function. We develop the itineraries, coordinate all transportation requirements, VIP meals, housing and accompany the DVs out in

sector, which can be difficult at times." For example, Wren noted during the time of Carey's visit to Kosovo, Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Plewes, Chief, U.S. Army Reserve, was on the ground here visiting with the soldiers as well. She said both DV's were of equal importance, but the itineraries of both changed minute-by-minute.

"That really tested our resources. But we pulled it off, because of the great support we received (from just about every section here)," Wren said. "And we greatly appreciate it. Communication is so essential in what we do."

Since the TOA, the 10-person office, comprised of officers and soldiers from Fort Drum's 10th Mountain Division, and one DoD civilian, have escorted more than 120 distinguished visitors (DV's) to the MNB (E) sector.

First Lt. Catherine A. Crocker, JVB escort officer, said of all the responsibilities that come with handling DV's, there is also a sense of accomplishment once the mission is over.

"It's really a neat thing to see them interact with the soldiers and see that they care about what is going on here," Crocker said, noting that it has a personal affect as well. "Even though they don't come to visit with me, it's a great opportunity to meet them."

"However, I think the best thing I can take back with me to Fort Drum, is



First Lt. Catherine Crocker poses with Rep. John McHugh (R-NY) on Jan. 6. McHugh, whose district includes Fort Drum, was one of many distinguished visitors who have been escorted by JVB while on Camp Bondsteel.

not the fact that I met so many great dignitaries, but that I learned a lot about the people that I am going to work with once this deployment is over."

Spc. Dennis Bishop, JVB driver, said it's been a privilege to do what he gets to do in relation to his job.

"My friends are always telling me they wish they could be me. It has been a great opportunity for me to meet so many different people," he said mentioning the most memorable moment for him

came during a recent visit by Gen. Larry R. Ellis', commander, U.S. Army Forces Command.

"It was neat to drive him around, because he was one-on-one with the soldiers. He took time to sit down and play games with them at MWR. That was a big morale booster just knowing that he took the time to get a feel for what we are accomplishing here."

### TFF Deputy Commander CMO

## Aim High and leave here better than you when you arrived



Col. Lawrence Saul

that got you and I to this place in time, "Aim High" was designed to encourage people to be more than they could be, to strive to reach new heights, personally and professionally.

"Be All That You Can Be" and "Aim High" are both encouraging and challenging statements that deserve a second look.

"Aim High" was the U.S. Air Force recruiting slogan from the late 1980s and through the 1990s. Much like "Be All That You Can Be," the slogan

The two statements are encouraging in that they both offer the promise that, with some additional effort on our part, we can improve our lot in life.

The challenge is a direct encouragement to us, for us to push ourselves to new levels of achievement. I think that is the basic premise in life: if we want to better our station in life, we need to motivate ourselves. This is the American story. Each succeeding generation of the American family is better off than their ancestors. That is sort of the American Dream. It is a dream that Army has helped many of us achieve.

The Army has, throughout its history, offered the opportunity for soldiers to leave a better person than when they began their career. During the 18th and 19th centuries, and to a degree the 20th as well, immigrants used the Army to assimilate into American society.

Look at the many opportunities we have to make improvements in ourselves. Promotions and advancements are open

to all who apply themselves and demonstrate the appropriate level of MOS knowledge and talents as a leader. For the young soldier, when entrusted with the opportunity to lead, to supervise, or to showcase his abilities, this is the ultimate sign of trust and confidence the Army has in us.

Education is what sets the U.S. Army apart from virtually all other armies. The U.S. Army values education highly, and places the correct emphasis accordingly. Look at the link between educational achievement and promotion. The point is clear.

As a young soldier I was barred from promotion to Staff Sergeant, as I did not possess a high school equivalency. Hence, I set a new goal I struggled to achieve. Rightfully so, I was a better leader with a high school diploma than without.

The Army's emphasis on education is amazing. No other employer offers its workers the great deals we have available to us. While deployed here in Kosovo,

you can get attend classes tuition-free.

That is a deal any college student on campuses at home would love to enjoy. I can't imagine any deal better than free tuition. If you are not taking advantage of this, you need to do a self-assessment. Don't pass up such a great deal. If you fail to take advantage of this, you are passing up a once in a lifetime opportunity.

If educational self-improvement does not excite you, try some other aspects of personal advancement. The fitness centers are first rate, and open 24/7. What a deal! In addition, both chapels offer a number of spiritually enhancing programs.

The bottom line is this: the Army offers a wide variety of programs to anyone who is motivated and interested in self-improvement. It merely requires you to take the first step. Aim High! Leave Kosovo in better shape—educationally, physically or spiritually—than when you first arrived.

## Georgia, Kosovo, Japan...

### Fort Benning infantryman bring cheer from Asia to local children

by Spc. Molly Jones  
Staff Writer

Although Christmas is long past now, there is still a spirit of giving in the air for the soldiers of C Co., 1st Battalion of the 30th Infantry Regiment (Fort Benning, Ga.), who gave out presents on and in the days after Christmas to children in areas surrounding Camp Monteith.

Where did the soldiers get the presents to hand out? The story behind this process is interesting. Capt. David Taylor, C Co. commander for 1-30th, was in Kosovo during the harvest season. He witnessed parents tossing their children corn cobs to play with, "and I thought it was funny because they were just as happy as if they'd had a Play Station and the latest game to go with it," Taylor said.

Taylor's mother, a teacher at a naval base in Japan, and her students began fund-raising after the attacks on Sept. 11, but instead decided to put the money toward presents for the children of Kosovo, after hearing what they played with. "Little by little, the fund-raiser at my mom's school turned into a big deal

when they decided to buy toys for the children here. They collected more than \$2,000 worth of toys," he said.

"Kids are the same anywhere you go, so between trying to do something nice for the kids, whose fault the situation in this country is not, we're trying to give our soldiers an

opportunity to feel human and do something Christmassy," Taylor explained.

The mission in Kosovo is "safe and secure," "but if all that we do is safe and secure, it's going to be a long six months. I think there's more that we can do. There's more that my

soldiers want to do, soldiers are human. It's still kind of Christmas time and we enjoy giving gifts," he said.

The story has two donating parties, the middle school children in Japan who donated and the soldiers in Kosovo. Interestingly enough, each participant of the process was separated from a family member. The counterparts in Japan had parents who were on ships supporting the efforts in Afghanistan, while the soldiers in Kosovo were actually deployed away from their families, explained Taylor.

Taylor and his soldiers are planning to give more to the communities, and their surrounding areas. They are helping add to the collection of school supplies that is a continual effort, and are in the process of making plans for sporting events in the spring months before the rotation comes to an end. Taylor is collecting soccer balls for a few games with the children who did not make the town teams. Overall, the giving process was "just something nice to do, and apparently that's what everybody wants to do right now is help somebody else," said Taylor.



Staff Sgt. Anthony Barbin, C Co., 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Battalion, gives out the presents that were donated by middle school children from a naval base in Japan.

### 490th Civil Affairs, TMK team together to bring humanitarian relief to Gnjilane/Gjilan

by Spc. Molly Jones  
Staff Writer

GNJILANE/GJILAN—The winter has set in for the more than 500 deprived families scattered around Kosovo, some who do not enjoy the luxury of electricity, the comfort of a wood-burning stove or even have wood for their stoves. This is one problem UNMIK and KFOR, with the help of the TMK, would like to repair for the people of Kosovo.

In past winters, families from the villages in the mountains would come down and live with host families who have heat in their homes, and stay for the duration of winter. This year UNMIK and KFOR wanted to help out a little more. The 490th Civil Affairs Bn. at Camp Monteith has been planning for the winterization process, and humanitarian assistance since September.

One of the key projects they have been working on is donating firewood to needy families here in Kosovo to heat their homes this winter, according to

Capt. Kristofer Ailsieger, (JOB) of the 490th.

"This is the first time KFOR and TMK have been involved in it. We're working in close coordination with UNMIK," said Staff Sgt. Stephen Terry, also of 490th.

"The wood we're donating was confiscated from people who were

cutting without a license. Once the wood is confiscated, it can be used for humanitarian services," said Ailsieger.

KFOR has worked closely with the TMK on this operation. The TMK has provided trucks and much needed manpower. The two organizations plan on helping families this season with firewood, but there are still people in

need of wood-burning stoves, electricity, clothes and blankets, said Ailsieger. "Right now we're doing everything we can."

There are still refugees and displaced persons who need the basics, but most of that is handled by UNHCR with support by KFOR, according to Ailsieger.

"The TMK has been fabulous," said Ailsieger. "They've responded with every request and supplied us with equipment and manpower. They're very enthusiastic about this project. They want to show everyone they are for all of Kosovo, not solely the Albanians."

The different organizations have put a great deal of effort in to this operation, and are seeing immediate

results. The families are excited and are truly happy to have the firewood, according to Ailsieger. The simple gesture this season will not only warm the homes of the recipient families, but the hearts of the providers from both KFOR and TMK.



Members of 490th Civil Affairs Battalion helped the TMK deliver firewood to grateful Serbian families to help keep their homes warm throughout the winter months.

## Air Force squadron is 24-7 weather shop for MNB (E)

*Eight member office provides information pertinent to Task Force Falcon missions*

by Spc. Taylor Barbaree  
Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL— Task Force Falcon has an ally when it comes to anticipating the rugged weather of Kosovo.

The 7th Expeditionary Weather Squadron (U.S. Air Force) serves as the 24-hour, 7-day weather shop for Task Force Falcon.

"We often are asked if we are the same people who do weather on television," said Capt. Eugene Wall, 7th EWS OIC, explaining the mission of the office. "I can understand why people would confuse us, but our number one priority is to insure that the Task Force Falcon Command has accurate data on what the weather will be like today, tomorrow and beyond. We do that by giving them a weather impact statement, which is similar to a forecast that you might read via the internet, but it is a little more detailed.

That information is critical, because weather affects everything we do here, from flying to our resources on the ground."

"(I never leave home without it,)" said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan N. Collier, an A-64 Apache pilot with B Co., 3rd Battalion, 229th Aviation. "The information that I receive from them (7th EWS) is beneficial to my mission, because it enables me to know what kinds of elements that I may face out there."

Wall, who has spent a majority of his career working with the Army, said with their high tech,



state-of-the-art equipment, they are able to gather the wind chill factor at an elevation of 2,000 to 3,000 feet higher than Camp Bondsteel. That is pertinent information, because that just happens to be the elevation of Firebase Rock, which serves as a fixed site security point for MNB (E).

The 7th EWS also relies on some help from

the 'Red Legs' of the 3rd Battalion 6th Field Artillery Regiment when gathering info for the 15-17 daily briefings they share with the TOC and pilots of Task Force Dragon.

"We are able to compute the temperature and wind data more accurately thanks to them," Wall said, describing how the 3rd of the 6th FA gathers the information. "Their meteorology section launches weather balloons from Radar Hill daily, and they then share their data with us."

Mentioning the history behind the Air Force's involvement in the weather business, Wall said it dates back to 1947 when the Army Air Corps was transformed into a separate service.

"It is a policy that we (Air Force) will provide the Army with weather information when there is an aviation operation."

As for the make-up of the weather entity, Air Force Tech Sgt. Dave Lomack, the 7th EWS NCOIC, said the office is presently staffed with seven "Blue Suiter's" and one Navy sailor.

"This squadron's headquarters is based in Germany," he said. "But the personnel that rotate in-and-out of here (usually every 120-days) are deployed from Europe and the U.S. So it's a great opportunity to work with different people from all over. Because the technical schools are so long (6 months) for us, everyone enjoys what they do, otherwise they wouldn't want to be in the weather business."

## Buckeye pursued ambition in USAF

by Spc. Taylor Barbaree  
Editor

CAMP BONDSTEEL— Although her job in the Air Force could be misconstrued as an AFN Weather Forecaster, don't remind Staff Sgt. Tonya Winski of the comparison.

"I'm not an on-air weather personality," she said with a smile. "But I am often asked wherever I might happen to be, 'what will the weather be like today'. You just come to expect it, when you do what I do (for a living)."

Even though she doesn't play a weather personality on TV, the 29-year-old Ohio native said her interest in the weather spans from childhood.

"I was always gazing at the sky while growing up," she said. "I can remember lying in my yard at home watching the clouds move by and changing shapes. That intrigued me because it was a mystery. I remember being told that I would lose my imagination if I ever learned the secrets behind how clouds form and weather changes. If anything, I haven't lost my imagination. I have gained more."

So when it came time to pursue a career, Winski pursued both an opportunity to learn more about weather and to travel.

"It's been great to be able to travel and see so many different places," she said of choosing the Air Force over the other services. "Being a weather forecaster has afforded me with an opportunity to work hand-in-hand with people that deploy."

"Originally I wanted to serve in special operations, but can't because they don't allow

females in that field. This job allows me to be as close as I can to working in a special operations field. Plus there are numerous opportunities to deploy," she said.

Noting the importance of her duties at the 7th Expeditionary Weather Squadron office, Winski said, "Every job here depends on the information we provide. It lets them decide how they might be able to efficiently perform their mission. Our forecasts are geared to aid them in how they go about doing their jobs."

Pointing out the positives of time spent here, Winski noted the 120-day period has helped hone her skills as a forecaster.

"Because you are here seven days each week, you spend a lot more time doing your job. You also learn to rely on your knowledge (of the weather), simply because you don't have as much data at your disposal."

Aside from earning a college education, Winski said her future plans include staying in the



Staff Sgt. Tonya Winski

Air Force doing what she loves to do, predicting weather.



## TF 1-32 Soldier follows in father's footsteps by serving in Army



Spc. Shird Moore

by Spc. Taylor Barbaree  
Editor

VITINA/VITI, Kosovo- Spc. Shird Moore spent the majority of his time growing up in Sebring, Fla., playing football in the friendly confines of his backyard. Nowadays, the 20-year-old former Sebring High Blue Streaks defensive tackle spends his days here keeping

the peace.

"I'm glad to be in Kosovo and to help the people here," Moore, a rifleman with B Co. 3rd Platoon, 2nd Squad, 1st Battalion of the 32nd Infantry Regiment (TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin"), said as he spent the last day of 2001 guarding a Serbian Orthodox Church in this Albanian/Serbian town. "I knew that sooner or later we would be deployed. So I think the best thing I can take back (home) with me is the fact that I served in a foreign country."

Describing his duties, Moore says that his shifts at the church seem to encompass more than the 8-hours they pull before being replaced by another squad from Camp McGrath, where the 10th Mountain Division's TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin" is based.

"You do a lot of pondering when you pull duty like this," he said, mentioning his

wife, Crystal, who he writes to often. Above anything else though you have to be alert."

And for good reason. The Church, built in 1829, which also has an adjacent parsonage next to it that Moore and his squad protect, is a tell-tale sign of how a war can inflict damage to an old landmark.

"This church has been rebuilt multiple times," noted Moore's commanding officer, Capt. Christopher Bresko, B Co. commander, pointing out his soldier's mission each day.

"Their job is twofold. They not only provide perimeter

security, but they control the traffic in-and-out of the Church. This is a fixed site security post."

However, due to the presence of KFOR forces over the past three years, time, according to Moore, passes by quietly at the near acre of land that comprises the area they are assigned to protect.

"It has been uneventful since we arrived here in November," Moore said, as he scans the compound that has a barrier around it. "The children really make time pass quicker. It's good to interact with them."

Aside from feeling good about the job he and other soldiers of TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin" are doing, there is a personal reason for Moore being in the Army.

"This deployment has also allowed me the opportunity to serve in my father's footsteps," he said, which is something that he is proud to have an opportunity to do. Moore's father, Shird (Moore Sr.), age 77, is not only a veteran, but served in the Army's 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment (101st Airborne Division) during World War II. Some might instantly recognize the name of the elite, legendary outfit and one of its subordinate units, Easy Company. Both the regiment and company were the subjects of a best selling book and cable television series entitled, "Band of Brothers". Both the book and series depict the events that a group of soldiers experienced during the war.

"He said he remembers a lot more of the details since the series has aired," Moore said of conversations that he has had with his dad about the 10-episode run, which ended its 9-week span on AFN TV January 7th. "Other than that, he really doesn't talk about it all that much."

Still, Moore said it's an honor knowing that his dad played a part in what some historians have noted as the "last great war".

"I'm proud of him, but at the same time he is always telling me that he is proud of what I am accomplishing in Kosovo."

However, Moore's father is not the only one proud of his son.

"They are performing well," Bresko said of all of his squad's performance. "I don't think I could ask more of them."

## Camp Magrath officers, soldiers ring in new year with local residents

by Spc. Taylor Barbaree  
Editor

VITINA/VITI, Kosovo- Soldiers of Camp Magrath's 1st Battalion of the 32nd Infantry Regiment (TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin") helped to ring in the New Year with the Albanian/Serbian residents here by sharing some customs resembling an American holiday celebration.

"It's great having an opportunity to celebrate the new year with our neighbors," said Capt. John Walton, TF 1-32 Inf. "Chosin", civil affairs representative. "Hopefully these events will help to bridge better relations between all (entities) during the coming year."

As crowds of residents, which included hundreds of children, gathered in the downtown area of Vitina/Vition New Year's Eve day, they were treated to an appearance of the 'Big Guy' in the red suit as well as the "Camp Magrath Carolers."

"They (the residents here) celebrate the holidays differently than us," he said. "They actually don't celebrate Christmas, but have a more universal Santa Claus. So with the help of KFOR, we decided to put this festival together for them."

After the children were given presents from Santa Claus, the Camp Magrath Carolers sang traditional Christmas songs such as "Rudolph the



Officers and soldiers of TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin" sang holiday songs to the residents of Vitina/Viti on New Year's Eve Day.

Red Nosed Reindeer and "Jingle Bells". Some of the local children even participated in the day's events.

"I think this was a good opportunity to share the traditions of Santa Claus with the children of Vitina-to share and bring peace and

goodwill to all men, women and children on Earth," said Lt. Col. Robert Nye, commander, TF 1-32 Inf. "Chosin", summarizing his feelings of the day's events.

## ***The Best of Combat Camera:***

*This is a regular section of the Falcon Flier which features some of the best work of Combat Camera.*

*Special thanks to Combat Camera (55th Signal Company, Fort Meade, Md.) for submitting these photos.*



*Second Lt. Glenn Ford, Alpha Co., 5th Engineers Battalion fires a 50 Cal machine gun during a breach attack at range 4 near Camp Bondsteel on Jan. 5. Ford, sent to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian II, is stationed out of Fort Leonardwood, Mo.*



*Sgt. Michael Skaiife shoots a 50 cal machine gun during a breach attack at Range No. 4 near Camp Bondsteel on Jan. 5. Skaiife is with Alpha Co., 5th Engineers Battalion (Fort Leonardwood, Mo.).*



*Cpl. Tim Haas and Pfc. Jared Watson fill sandbags on 11 January. Both Haas and Watson are with the 27th Engineers Battalion, Charlie Co., Fort Bragg, N.C. The 27th Engineers are in Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian II.*

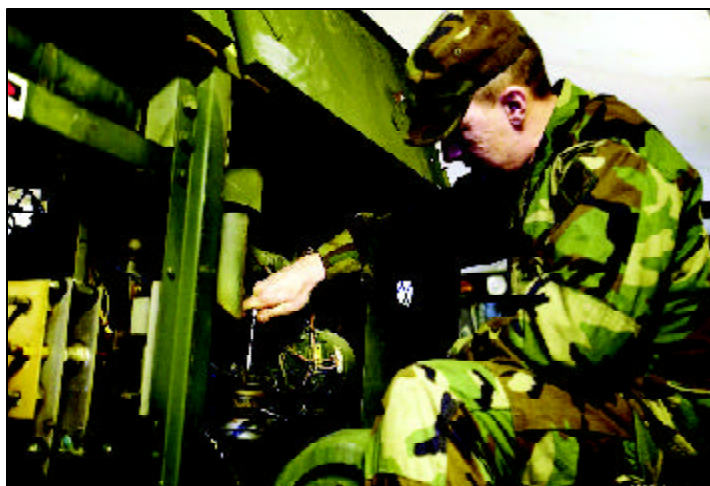


*An explosion, conducted by soldiers of A Co., 5th Engineers Battalion, during a breach attack at Camp Bondsteel on Jan. 5.*

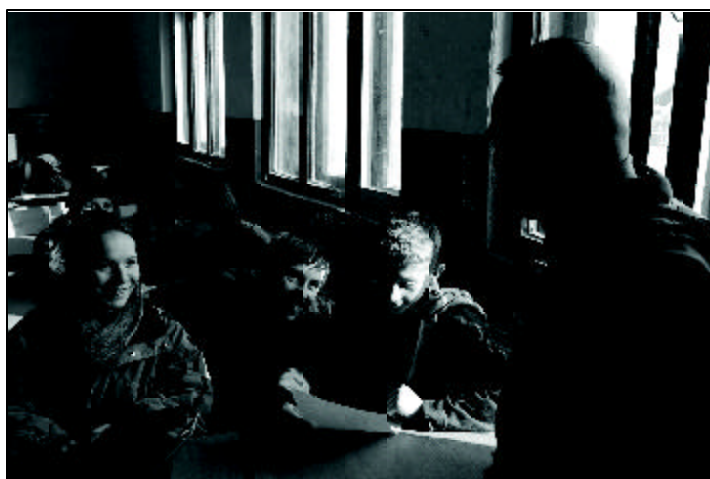




fill sandbags on 11 January. Both Haas and Watson are part of the 27th Engineer Battalion, N.C. The 27th Engineers are in Kosovo as a part of the peace-keeping



Sgt. Lloyd Radford performs routine maintenance on a Welding Trailer on Jan. 11th. Radford is part of the 27th Engineer Battalion.



U.S. Army Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Weichl from TFMF V (Camp Bondsteel), visits with children of the Jeronim De Roda school in Urosevac/Ferizaj, Kosovo recently. Several volunteers from the hospital, here in support of Operation Joint Guardian II, came to the school to deliver 1,800 toys donated by AAFES.



A Co., 5th Engineers Battalion, during a breach attack at Range No. 4 near



Having attached a tow-bar to a disabled Humvee, Staff Sgt. Shawn Walden directs a tow-vehicle into position to connect the pair. Walden is with the 66th MP Company working outside of Kamenica on the night of Jan. 7th.

## EURO makes debut at Camp Bondsteel, TFF

by Capt. David L. Gardner  
10th Soldier Support Battalion

The Euro became legal tender in 12 countries in the European Union (EU) on January 1, 2002. Although Kosovo is not a member of the EU, the Euro is the accepted currency, replacing the Deutsche Mark (DM).

Pvt. 2 Stephan T. Fields, a native of Atlanta, Ga., and assigned to B Co, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Reg. (TF 1-32 Infantry "Chosin") at Camp Magrath, was the first U.S. Soldier to receive the new currency. MAJ Sam C. Fuson presented the soldier with the crisp, 10 Euro banknote.

The deadline for soldiers and civilians supporting KFOR to convert DM to Euro is February 15, 2002. The new currency will circulate with the old, but after February 15, the old currencies will no longer be accepted.

Remember the conversion rate for Deutsche Marks (DM) is 1.95583, which means that one Euro is equal to 1.95583 Deutsche Marks, or one DM is equal to 51129 Euro. The conversion rate for the DM is fixed and will remain in effect throughout the turn-in period. The dates for DM turn-in



Maj. Sam Fuson, 10th SSB Commander, poses with the new Euro currency.

are Jan. 8-Feb. 15, 2002 for KFOR personnel. After February 15, KFOR base camps will not exchange or use DMs. The conversion rate for the U.S. Dollar versus the Euro will fluctuate daily.

Visit the Finance Office or the 266th Finance Command Home Page at <http://www.266fc.hq.usareur.army.mil/> for more information and current exchange rates.

## Leave...

## To be, or not be *taxed*

by Capt. David L. Gardner  
10th Soldier Support Battalion

That is the question.

Here is the answer. Leave is never taxed! Base pay is however. Accrued leave is considered base pay and normally taxed when a soldier sells it back to the US Army upon ETS.

"Cashed in" leave accrued while deployed to a qualified Combat Tax Exclusion Zone (CTZE) is considered base pay earned while deployed and is not taxed. Currently, Kosovo is considered a CTZE.

Leave is used and sold by applying the principles of First In, First Out (FIFO). As leave is used, the days accrued first are the first to go.

Situation: Soldier "A" deployed to Kosovo from 1 Nov 01 to 1 Jun 02 and is honorably discharged on 1 Aug 02 with a leave balance of 54 days.

Solution: 54 Days-Leave Balance on 1 Aug 02

Less: 5 Days-Leave earned in Jun and Jul 02 (Taxed)

Less: 17.5 Days-Leave accrued during deployment (Not Taxed)

31.5 Days-Leave earned prior to the deployment (Taxed)

Answer: Thirty-six days "cashed in" leave are taxed and 17.5 days are not.

Visit your camp's finance office for more information.

# Important information about filing taxes while deployed in support of Operation Joint Guardian

## Special to the Falcon Flier

Happy New Year's! As always, we end the holiday season with gifts of W2's, 1040's, and other sometimes confusing documents. Rest assured that beneficial legislation exists to help deployed soldiers throughout the upcoming tax season.

Taxes need not interfere with your mission. There will be ample time to file when we redeploy. The federal government imposed an automatic extension for deployed soldiers (and spouses of those deployed if filing jointly) during the tax season. This extension gives you an additional 285 days after redeployment

to file. To invoke this extension, write "KOSOVO" on the back of your tax form when you do file. Special Tax Power of Attorneys, prepared on a walk-in basis, allow your spouse to file on your behalf. Married soldiers are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this option as soon as possible.

To receive tax assistance, you must first clear your unit's Tax Assistance Officer (UTO). The UTO's primary function is to ensure that the soldier understands the filing process and determines if the soldier has all the necessary documentation for filing their taxes at the Tax Assistance Center. If the information is

incomplete or inaccurate, the soldier can face a \$500 penalty for filing a frivolous return.

All soldiers must provide the following documents: W-2s from all employers within the year, IRS forms they've received, account and routing numbers from their bank (i.e. a voided check), and copies of all dependents' social security cards. Soldiers filing taxes that are married, separated, or real estate owners require more documentation. Additional tax information can be obtained from your Unit Tax Officer, the Legal Assistance Office, or at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). The Tax Center/Legal Assistance

Office, located in Bldg 1340A (Admin Alley, next to Finance), will open for tax assistance on 4 February 2002. Appointments are available Mon.-Sat. 1000-1630 hours, and Sun. 1300-1630 hours by calling 781-5071.

*"Our men and women serving in the Kosovo area should be focused on one thing and one thing only- keeping themselves safe from harm and achieving our mission. While our troops are under fire, they certainly don't need to be doing battle with the IRS as well."*

— (Former) U.S. Rep. Bill Archer (R-Texas), Ways and Means Committee

## Fire safety tip's from your TFF Fire Department

In the cold weather it is easy to accumulate a lot of unnecessary storage inside facilities, good housekeeping is a basic factor in eliminating fire hazards. The following precautions can help to prevent fires.

1. Do not let trash accumulate inside or next to a building. When a trash receptacle is full, empty it outside of the building in a dumpster.
  - Only use trash receptacles made of metal or plastic, and designed to be used for that purpose
  - Don't store stacks of used cardboard inside, remove it on a routine basis
  - Don't stack combustibles next to buildings or fuel tanks
2. Never store combustible material under stairs, in front of or next to exit doors. A fire could block your way out of the building.
3. Do not store combustible materials in attics, crawl spaces, or any other area not designed for storage.
4. Use a separate metal container, with a metal lid, for dirty rags, especially those contaminated with any petroleum products
5. Exhaust fans and motors should be clean and free of dust. If you think you have a problem, put in a work order to have it inspected.
6. Clean out butt cans daily and kept free of any combustible material. Remember to soak the contents with water before emptying in a dumpster.
7. Do not block exits with furniture or any other items.
9. Keep a 32" path clear of obstructions to any exit.
10. Keep your smoke detector free of dust, and don't forget to test it.

If you have any questions about this, or any fire safety topic, contact your Camp Fire Station, or call DSN 4098 and ask for the Fire Prevention section.

## KFOR MWR programs are one-stop source for soldiers

by **SpC. Terry Boggs**  
Staff Writer

**CAMP BONDSTEEL**—The new year is upon us, and with the opening of a new year come many new questions. How far have I come since last year? Will I be able to keep the resolutions I just made? Well these questions are up to you to answer, but there is one thing you will not have to ask; who will be providing my entertainment while I'm deployed here in Kosovo? The answer: the MWR.

The MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) is your one-stop source for everything fun, from ping-pong to pool, from TV to telephones, from concerts to trips. They specialize in entertaining troops; they have for many years.

Danielle Crawford, KFOR MWR Marketing Tour Specialist, gave an idea of what the MWR is all about.

"We provide entertainment coming in to see the troops (in the form of DOD or USO shows about 4 times a month)," she said. "These include comedy shows, variety shows, magic and cultural activities. We also offer a monthly 5K and 10K run, karaoke once a week, and karate and aerobics every week."

In addition to these services, MWR also offers VTC (Video Teleconferencing) calls, and morale phones to call home with, not to mention the physical fitness equipment you work out with in the gyms.

With all that MWR gives the soldiers you might think they have a fairly large staff. But according to Crawford, there are only a handful of people at every KFOR camp. There are 17 total MWR employees in all camps, to be exact. It sounds like an impossible mission, but Crawford said they work around the clock with very few days off. It is a



*Pfc. Zachary Parimello, HHC Pers. Sec. Det. TFF, enjoys shooting pool at the MWR facility in South Town on Camp Bondsteel.*

tough task that requires a dedicated group of people to make it happen.

"They are the ones that do all the work," she added. "Definitely give them the full credit they deserve".

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Alberto Ventura, a UH-60 pilot from B Co. 210th Avn., (Fort Drum) offered

his kudos to the MWR staff. Ventura, a first-time visitor at the MWR, happened to walk into the Camp Bondsteel recreation center. He liked what he saw.

"It's very roomy," said Ventura, speaking of the center. "I like the pool tables especially." Of the other activities the MWR offers, he said, "I think the entertainment is great. That's the only thing that keeps us going."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Pracht, also a pilot from the B Co 210th Avn., seemed to be in agreement.

"The pool tables are nice," said Pracht. "I like the computers too." He went on to say, without the MWR here, "this place would be boring."

With all that they have done in the past couple months, it makes you wonder; what's next? Surprisingly enough, it's a trip to Sofia.

That's right, the MWR is also responsible in part for the ongoing FMPP (Fighter Management Pass Program) trips to Bulgaria. It's a small wonder too, considering all of the other things they do here.

The next time you see an MWR staff person, whether at a concert, show, or at the MWR building itself, you may want to offer a warm handshake and a thank you for all they have done. Because, as far as entertainment goes, nobody does more for the soldiers of KFOR.

(MWR staff members are available for praise, comments or suggestions. Their hours of operation are posted on bulletin boards all over the KFOR area, also on the TFF website at <http://www.tffalcon.hqsareur.army.mil>. Click on the Soldier Support link of the menu and choose the MWR page. It offers information on upcoming events and operating hours. Or call your local MWR representative for further details.)

## Combat Camera: the soldiers that shoot first, ask questions later

by **SpC. Terry Boggs**  
Staff Writer

**CAMP BONDSTEEL**—For every job you want done in the Army, there is a place to go. If you want a bridge built, you call the Engineers. If you want a leg splint, you call the Medics. If you need to get a cash advance, you go to the finance office. And for the very best, most up-to-date, frontline look at what the Army is doing, you talk to Combat Camera.

"We're the eyes of the Army," proudly stated Sgt. Shama Parker, Video Production Specialist with the 982nd Signal Co., Detachment 1, Combat Camera Unit out of Atlanta, Ga. "We document everything the Army does. If you have seen the movie 'Pearl Harbor', and you see the guy with the video camera, we are like him. We provide the historical footage."

Parker, a full-time flight attendant and part-time Reservist, noted how the footage is used; historical value, intelligence and training purposes. And though their video and photography is sometimes used to support somebody else's stories, Combat Camera does not actually write any articles themselves. The material they produce is sent to the JCCC (Joint Combat Camera Center) at the Pentagon, and from there they decide how they want to release it.

They are definitely not Public Affairs.

"The biggest difference," said Parker, "is that PAO does stories, and Combat Camera documents. There are a lot of places that Combat Camera would go that PAO wouldn't go. Also, there are places we go where there is classified information."

If you have ever tried to print classified information in a public newspaper, you most likely ran into problems.

Like Public Affairs, Combat Camera shows up at certain events to take pictures or shoot video. This is where the similarity ends, though. Their missions are similar in nature, but differ in detail.

"I think it is very exciting," Parker added



*Sgt. Andrew Smith documents the engineer team sent out to make a trench in the side of a mountain near Camp Monteith on Dec. 21. Smith is a member of the Combat Camera team sent to Kosovo as a part of Operation Joint Guardian II.*

thoughtfully. "I wanted something a little more challenging and this is as close to a Combat Arms MOS as I will get to. We train very hard to go right along side of 'Joe'."

"You have to be an asset to the squad that is on patrol. You have to be just as in shape and motivated. I wanted that kind of challenge. I think everybody that signed up to be Combat Camera had some kind of thrill seeker mentality. They wanted something more exciting than the regular thing."

It makes sense that, a position such as Combat Camera, which has a harsher mission, would have stricter requirements.

SpC. David Yancey is another member of the small but effective team. Yancey, is an active duty Army soldier from the 55th Signal Battalion, Fort Meade, Md.

"It gives you a mobility that hardly anybody else in the Army really has," he said. "You get to go everywhere and see everything that the Army does. That really adds to your knowledge and understanding of the Army."

Yancey said his favorite part of his job was handing the finished product over, and giving the troops recognition for what they do in the field. "Especially," he added, "the people that are my rank, the ones that are out there sweating, making the Army move."

Yancey commented about covering jobs that do not involve going into the field as well.

"A small fraction of the job is to show everything about the Army," he said, "including some stuff that shows life on the base. You get a little of that in there, but it is not the focus of our job."

"As Army historians we are going to show everything that happens here; some of that is going to be the gym or the PX. We do this because somebody who is rotating to Kosovo may want to get on the JCCC website and see what the base looks like."

Therefore, although most of the footage they take here will not be seen by soldiers here on base, some of it can be found on the JCCC website. And even though the site does not show everything they do, what they do show can be beneficial to some soldiers.

Also, their work is shown on AFN on a regular basis.

The Task Falcon Flier also features Combat Camera pictures in every issue.

You can find even more fruits of their labor. <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil/dodimagery/home.html>.



## TF 1-30th shares the joy of range training with Austrians

by Spc. Molly Jones  
Staff Writer

Ramnjan Range, controlled by Task Force Falcon, is the only qualification range in Kosovo where large caliber weaponry can be fired. The range is very useful for the American troops who are in need of their weapons qualification, but what do other countries do to stay on top of their requirements while in Kosovo? Simple, Task Force Falcon graciously allows them access to their ranges.

Fort Benning, Ga.'s 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, (TF 1-30th) was solely involved during the coordination with the Austrians, TF Duhle, and assisting in their weapons qualification and range hosting process. TF 1-30th's Battalion Master Gunner, Staff Sgt. Edward Westveer, began planning with the Austrians in December shortly after they asked Task Force Falcon to help.

"They have to qualify on their weapons systems just like we do," said Westveer. To make it easier on both parties, TF 1-30 had their own personnel as Range Safety Officer, Westveer, and the Officer in Charge, Capt. Matthew Neumeyer, assistant operations officer for TF 1-30, were present on the range



Task Force 1-30 facilitated communications with TFF headquarters for the Austrians while they used Ramnjan Range, just outside of Camp Bondsteel, to qualify on their heavy weaponry.

for the day.

"They needed to qualify on their weaponry, much like we need to, so they went to Task Force Falcon, and TF 1-30, being the heaviest unit here, with Bradley's and whatnot, we were chosen to assist in the process. We are only here to facilitate communications with Falcon. This an Austrian range for the day; they are responsible for the set up, conduct, and tear down of the range," said

Neumeyer.

"Everything the Austrians have done has been well within guidelines, in fact they are extremely safe and proficient leaders, and we've had no problems," said Neumeyer.

Part of the Austrians' requirement is to qualify their sections, but they combine the armored personnel carrier's qualification with their dismounted troops, according to Westveer.

The scenario will be to "move two vehicles, the APC's, with personnel mounted in the back. They will make contact, dismount and move to an over watch position, while the APC's move into their position and fire on their targets. Then they will break contact. Very much like the type of thing you would see here in Kosovo if we were ever under fire, maybe an ambush, but the same type of

thing: return fire and break contact," explained Neumeyer.

Westveer runs the targets for the 50 caliber machine guns in the control tower by a remote control box that controls the target lifters that are down-range. This is the first time this equipment has been used, which allows Westveer the opportunity to practice and time to work out any problems before his gunnery begins the next week, he said.

## Improving quality of life in Kosovo

### Camp Monteith's 10th LTF conducts MEDCAP in Pasjane

by Spc. Molly Jones  
Staff Writer

PASJANE, Kosovo – As medics of 10th LTF, of Camp Monteith, carry boxes of supplies into the medical clinic here, there is a steady flow of Serbian patients entering with hopes of being treated by KFOR soldiers. The team of three healthcare providers, and their medics will be administering acute healthcare to the people streaming into the clinic with their various problems to be mended, according to Capt. Philip Suh, OIC of the Camp Monteith Troop Medical Clinic.

The locations of each Medical Civilian Assistance Program, or MEDCAP, varies as the different company commanders go into the towns and speak with the local mayors and town councils to see what their soldiers can do to improve the quality of life for the people of the community, said Spc. Delvon McDaniel, Senior Line Medic for A Co., 1-30 IN.

The personnel on the MEDCAPs are equipped to treat only acute healthcare problems, and generally treat patients with upper respiratory tract infections, earaches, headaches, high blood pressure and the common cold, according to Suh.

They are prepared to treat more than 150 patients, although they might only provide medical assistance to the individuals that show up. Regardless of the numbers that do show up to be treated, the medics feel they are doing their part to help the community, said McDaniel.

When the MEDCAP team is faced with cases they cannot treat on location, they refer the patients to the hospital in Gjilan, "but they aren't fond of that, because the people of this village



Capt. Philip Suh, OIC for the Camp Monteith TMC, administers acute healthcare for one of the citizens of Pasjane on a recent MEDCAP.

are Serbian, so a lot of times they walk away suffering, and end up using home remedies," said McDaniel.

Also, patients with problems like diabetes are referred to the local physicians so they can receive better medical treatment.

The work done by the medical team on these locations is "very primitive," said Suh. "Since we don't have any kind of testing capabilities on site, we have to rely on our clinical

skills and training."

"Being over here and seeing the suffering of people all over the world has helped me open my eyes to so much," said Suh. "People at home take for granted the level of medical care and technology we have available to us in the states, and the fact that anyone can see a doctor. But here there is a shortage of doctors and nurses, so I'm glad that we are able to do a small part in helping these people."

## Surgeon designs game to help make studying for soldier's boards fun

by Spc. Molly Jones  
Staff Writer

It's inevitable; every enlisted soldier will have to face a promotion board if they ever desire a long lasting career in the Army. Sometimes the tedious task of studying can be long and quite boring, but that task can be made more exciting. Capt. David Law, TF 1-30's surgeon, has devised a new version of the Monopoly game that will help soldiers study for the promotion boards and have fun at the same time.

Law grew up playing the famous Monopoly game in the country of Burma, where he is from originally, and was able to recite every rule of the game, because he played so often. "When I was in medical school, I tried to come up with a version of the game to help me and my fellow students to study, but not only was there too much information, they thought I was crazy," he said.

Then, one day recently, Law came across one of his medics studying for the promotion board and "I remembered how

boring it was when I was an enlisted soldier years ago having to do the same thing." He understood what the medic was going through and wished there was some way to make the task fun, and he remembered his monopoly concept from medical school.

Curious if it would work, he put together a game board and pieces similar to Monopoly. Each square represents a subject

in the NCO Promotion Study guide, and once a player lands on that square they own it and all the questions that go along with it. As in Monopoly, when another player lands on owned property, the player has to pay "rent," well, in this version, the player has to answer a question.

He has also come up with "chance" cards, both good and bad, with things that will

flexible, and is designed to help studying be fun. It has been proven, that information gained in a more positive manner, like the game, is stored in the long-term memory rather than short-term. Also, it is more useful to the soldier to actually know the information rather than simply memorize the information for the short time before they appear before the board, said Law.



Capt. David Law, TF Surgeon for 1-30, examines a patient in a nearby town, but in the small amount of spare time he has away from work, he has come up with a Monopoly game to help soldiers study for the promotion boards.

help or hurt once in front of the board. The players can decide if they are ready for the "board" at any time, however before this they must get to one of the four corners before they can be questioned.

The other players act as the board members and ask the player questions from their lists. The player can then be promoted to a PV2 if they successfully answer all the questions. The rules of the game can be changed to suit the situation, for example, the winner can be the first one promoted to sergeant, or if questions are answered incorrectly, the player can lose a turn or do push-ups, said Law.

## SAFETYGRAM

It may be tempting  
to drive fast in these  
non-tactical vehicles...



But you're asking  
for trouble this winter.  
Slow down, buckle up,  
and drive with extra care.

## Spinning tunes...

Staff Sgt. Brandon Cain, one of TF 1-30's S-3 Battle NCOs, and his cohort, Pfc. Francisco Valentin, also of HHC, 1-30, are the illustrious radio personalities heard every Saturday night on 103.3 Radio Energji, located in downtown Gijón. The show airs from 8 to midnight (photo and caption by Spc. Molly Jones/TFF PAO).



## *The graveyard shift*

# Soldiers keep Bondsteel open all night

by Sgt. Jamie Brown  
Senior Editor

It's 1:30 a.m. and the silence here is louder than words as a slow moving fog blankets the glare of the midnight sun. This is where soldiers of the night, armed with coffee and good humor, fight the enemies of boredom, the cold night air and Circadian rhythms.

Like 7-11's and Waffle House's back in the States, Camp Bondsteel is open all night. And it is a dedicated group of soldiers who man the posts during what is commonly referred to as the "graveyard shift."

The soldiers who guard Gate One on Bondsteel, huddle in a small guard shack when they get the chance, trying to stay warm. Although they crack jokes and drink coffee, they realize that their job is just as important in the wee hours of night as it would be during the day.

"It's a lot slower at night," said Pfc. Juan Hernandez, A Co. 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment "But you've got to be on your toes, because you've got to expect more on at night than during the day."

Sometimes at night, however, soldiers have to work harder to stay alert, fighting the bodies' natural inclination to sleep when it's dark outside.

"The daytime is busier," said Staff Sgt. Richard Ringler, A Co. 3/321 FA "It keeps you busy and on your toes. It slows down a little bit at night. You get sleepy. That's why you walk outside into the cold. It wakes you up. I drink a lot of coffee."

"During the days it's busier, it keeps you occupied," said Spc. Kevin Slish, A Co. 3/321 FA. "During the nights it slows down. We keep the watch, drink some coffee and joke around when we can."

Across Bondsteel at the TOC, it is quiet as well. There is an echo that accompanies the opening and closing of doors that is not usually there during the day. Capt. Hib McNeilly, 3-6 FA, Assistant Brigade Fire Support Officer, who works from 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., seven days a week, has learned to like working late at night.

"Right now it's really not that bad, because we seem to have a battle rhythm," he said. "There's not too many people up here, so we can do what we need to do, with little guidance, and make things happen."

Unlike some of his fellow late-night soldiers, McNeilly doesn't enlist the aid of a hot cup of coffee very often.

"I'm only allocated one cup of coffee a night," he said. After that I get caffeinated a little too much."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dolan, HHCTFF, who is the G-2 NCOIC for his shift, has also found some positive aspects to working late nights at the TOC.

"At night you've got a lot of products, and you've got a lot of quiet to get them done," he said. "So it makes it relatively easy to concentrate."

One obstacle that these nocturnal soldiers have to face is the challenge of sleeping when the sun is out, and everyone else is awake. Like the narrator of the R.E.M. song "Daysleeper" who pleads "Don't wake me up so much," these soldiers have to work to get their sleep.

"It's a little bit tougher to sleep during the day," said Hernandez. "I think I get less hours of sleep, because it's hard to adjust. My roommates, some of them work different hours than I do. So they come in during the daytime, and they



Staff Sgt. Richard Ringler, A Co., 3/321 FA, pours himself a cup of coffee, one of the late-night worker's best friends.

make a little noise."

But several soldiers said that noisy roommates

are not a problem.

"My roommates don't make any noise, because we all understand that the other guy could come back, and do it to you," said Dolan. "It's just in-house rules."

"It's that 'be respectful' kind of thing," said Ringler.

Other soldiers might not be bothered, even if they had quiet-challenged roommates.

"I put my earplugs in, and I'm out," said McNeilly.

Another thing soldiers on the third shift have to adjust to is working when nothing else is going on, and sleeping when it is.

"Nothing is open during the night, so doing little things like going to the laundry, or seeing a movie becomes a rather interesting proposition," said Dolan.

Some of the soldiers who have to guard a spot for large chunks of time say that working at night can be beneficial during the day.

"When you work days you have to fit everything around what's open and what's closed, to pick up laundry, whatever," said Slish. "When you work nights, when you get off duty you can do a lot of stuff you couldn't do if you were working afternoon shift."

Sgt. George Yakop, A Co. 3/321 FA, views the dawning of the day as just a continuation of his day, which begins many hours before the sun rises.

"You're so tired when you get off of work that all you want to do is get a couple of hours of sleep, but we've also got other things to do like when we get off," he said. "We go to the gym, and do section P.T., or we go down to the motor pool and PMCS the vehicles. The day still continues, but we still get a good amount of sleep when we get off."

So if it is morning time, and you happen to see a tired third-shifter about to go to bed, make sure to tell them 'goodnight.' Or maybe you should tell them 'good day.'

## Bear sighting...

A UH-60 Blackhawk piloted by Chief Warrant Officer 3 George Kelly, TFF Dragon, "Mountain Hawks" was on a routine mission in the MNB (E) sector of Pilos (located close to Strpce) recently when a passenger on board spotted a Kosovo Brown Bear making his way through the snow (photo and caption by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tonya Winski/7th EWS).





## Chaplain's Corner

### Halftime: Looking forward to a mission completed

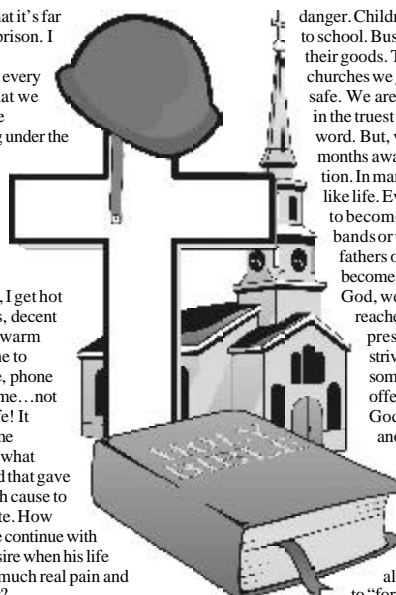
by Chaplain (Capt.) Ken Dunstone  
TFF Chaplain

"Not that I have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own... I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:12-14

We're nearing the peak of the mountain. Can you feel it? Very soon we'll begin the downhill run when there will be fewer days ahead of us in this mission than there are behind us. I know plans are already being made for redeployment. Flights are being scheduled. Reunion training will begin soon, here and at home. I don't know about you, but I'm making plans for a nice vacation with my wife when we return! We don't want to "press on" too quickly, but I can feel the excitement building for the completion of a successful mission. One of the characteristic features of Philippians is the joy with which the Apostle Paul writes. I recognize that joy and relish in it as I begin to look ahead to the trip home to be with my family again. The amazing thing in Philippians is that Paul was writing this letter from prison. Even more, he faced a possible death penalty! I think most of us have grumbled about one thing or another in our time here, but I have to

admit that it's far from a prison. I tell my soldiers every week that we could be sleeping under the stars (or the haze) and eating from bags. Instead, I get hot showers, decent food, a warm bed, time to exercise, phone calls home... not a bad life! It makes me wonder what Paul had that gave him such cause to celebrate. How could he continue with such desire when his life held so much real pain and suffering?

Notice, first, that he says he hasn't reached the goal. Like us, he was living in the "not yet." So far, we've had a very successful mission. There have been few accidents. We have protected the Kosovars from



danger. Children can safely go to school. Businesses can sell their goods. The homes and churches we guard remain safe. We are peacemakers in the truest sense of the word. But, we remain a few months away from completion. In many ways, it's like life. Even as we strive to become better husbands or wives, better fathers or mothers, to become more faithful to God, we have not yet reached the goal. We press on, always striving toward something greater, offering our love to God and to one another out of the love we have received.

As we move toward the finish, Paul also says we need to "forget what lies behind." Have you ever run or seen a relay race? The next runner begins running before the baton is handed off and simply holds one hand behind. If she looks back for the handoff, she'll lose time and the team

may lose the race. I think of all of the things in life that hold me back. When I focus on my mistakes, my sins, my imperfections, I'm no longer moving forward. Thankfully, God offers us forgiveness so that we might forget the sin in our lives and look ahead to something better. And, it's always easier when there really is something better awaiting us.

So, what was the prize Paul saw? It seems clear he saw it from the beginning of the race for it provided him the strength and courage to continue even though the course was difficult. He may have been imagining the heavenly prize given as a reward to those who have faithfully lived and died. Perhaps he was thinking of a ceremony at the end of the race when winners stand on the podium, recognized for their success. I think winning the prize is very much like what we're feeling right now; that just around the corner we'll board those planes to go home.

Can you focus your time and energy in these remaining days to finish strong and win the prize? Can you forget the pain of separation and the difficult times we've faced, looking ahead instead of behind? If Paul could rejoice in prison, I'm sure we can continue to find ways to drive on to the end of our mission. As we strain to reach the goal, I pray that God gives you everything you need in order to experience true fulfillment and joy, in this life and in the life to come.

CBS Worship Service	CMT Worship Service	Sector Worship
<p>Peacekeepers Chapel (North)</p> <p><u>Sunday</u> 8 a.m., Episcopal/Lutheran 9:30 a.m., Roman Catholic Mass 11 a.m., Collective Protestant 12:30 p.m., Gospel Service</p> <p><u>Monday</u> 7 p.m., Women's and Single Soldiers' Bible studies</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> 7 p.m., Catholic RCIA</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> 12 p.m., Roman Catholic Mass 6:30 p.m., Prayer Service 7 p.m., Bible Studies</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> 7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal (Gospel)</p> <p><u>Friday</u> 12 p.m., Muslim Prayer Service 7 p.m., Gospel Joy Night Service</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> 6:30 p.m., Stay Faithful Marriage Bible Study</p>	<p><u>Sunday</u> 9 - 10:30 a.m., General Protestant Service 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Gospel Service 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., LDS Worship 7 - 8 p.m., Catholic Mass</p> <p><u>Monday</u> 7 p.m., Chapel Movie Night w/ Discussion</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> 7 - 9 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Gospel Worship Practice 7:30 - 9 p.m., Bible Study</p> <p><u>Thursday</u> 6 - 7 p.m., General Protestant Practice 7 - 8 p.m., General Protestant Bible Study 8 - 9 p.m., General Protestant Worship</p> <p><u>Friday</u> 12 - 1 p.m., Muslim Service in Annex 7 - 8:30 p.m.</p> <p><u>Saturday</u> 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Seventh Day Adventist Worship</p>	<p>Protestant <u>Sunday</u> 2 p.m., Debelde 4 p.m., Binac Church</p> <p><u>Sunday</u> Camp Magrath, 10 a.m. Zintinje Church, 11:30 a.m. Klokot, 2 p.m. Mogila, 3:30 p.m. Vrbovac Church, 4:30 p.m. Vrbovac, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Latter Day Saints <u>Sunday</u> Camp Magrath, 2 p.m.</p> <p>Roman Catholic <u>Monday</u> Klokot, 2 p.m. Vrbovac, 4 p.m. Camp Magrath, 7 p.m.</p> <p>Other Activities <u>Sunday</u> Movie Night- 11 p.m.</p> <p><u>Tuesday</u> Bible Study, 8 p.m.</p>

(KOSOVSKA KAMENICA continued from page 1)

After driving through town they received a call to escort a couple to their doctor.

"The man had a recently had a heart attack and wasn't feeling well," Raynes said.

After waiting at the doctor's office, they followed the couple home and returned back to the station.

The next afternoon a patrol from the 66th MPs and the KPS went out. They patrolled the southern end of this town, not expecting to find much.

Tension still hangs over the town, days after the Markovic's death. It is the MP's job to defuse the tension. Taylor felt that it was already happening.

"I think things are returning to

normal," he said before driving back to the Station at his patrol's conclusion.

While patrolling Kamenica is nothing unusual for the MPS, patrolling with CivPol and KPS officers is unusual. For the first time, MPs and Civilian Police, and Kosovo Police Service patrol together here.

"Patrols like this one have been

planned for a while," said Capt. Sarah Draper, 66th MP Co. Commander. "The Jan. 6 incident proved to be the impetus that started the "joint" patrols," she said.

"So far they're working really well. They allow us to expand our area of coverage and saturation."

## 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0 ...

# Troops ring in the New Year with fun on Camp Bondsteel



Soldiers celebrate the end of 2001, and the beginning of 2002 at the South Town gym on New Year's eve. Party goers enjoyed entertainment, music, prize drawings, and plenty of near-beer.

by Sgt. Jamie Brown  
Senior Editor

What do you get when you mix near-beer, martial arts, hip-hop music, psychedelic glow-in-the-dark necklaces, line dancing and a room packed full of soldiers? It's New Year's eve at Camp Bondsteel. MWR sponsored a New Year's Eve party here at the South Town gym, and variety and fun were the ingredients.

"We wanted to ensure that all KFOR soldiers and civilians would have the opportunity to have activities and events to celebrate New Year's," said Richard W. Plummer, a retired U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class, and MWR Recreation Specialist. "We also wanted our customers to feel appreciated, welcome, and simply we are here for them."

After deciding to throw a party, Plummer wanted to insure that it would be as close to a party back home as it could be.

"I decided with the approval of my chain of command, to put on a talent exhibition, with variety music, New Year's countdown, prize drawings, costumes, balloon megamania, near-beer, near-wine, and near-champagne," said Plummer.

And a party wouldn't be complete without music. Soldiers danced away to the last moments of 2001 as Spc. August Jover, HHC TFF, spun the soundtrack to the festivities. Jover said he was happy to get a chance to help bring the party to life.

"I knew Mr. Plummer, and we got into a discussion about music one day," said Jover. "He said that he needed some volunteers, and he asked me if I'd be willing to play. Actually the New Year's Eve party was the second event that I deejayed for him, the first one was the 16th, the beach party. He liked the way the way the music was played and they asked me if I could do New Year's Eve. I was ecstatic. I was excited. I said 'Sure.'"

Jover said that he wanted to contribute to the variety

of the party by playing an eclectic mix of music.

"I played a combination of my CDs and other people's CDs," he said. "I was blessed to have a couple of good friends, because this was supposed to be a variety party. I wanted to play some techno, as well as some house music, as well as RandB and rap."

The music was successful in getting soldiers to get out of their chairs and on the dance floor according to Jover.

"A couple of people recognized me and they said, 'you did a good job,'" said Jover. "I looked out there, and saw what kind of crowd was dancing. Honestly, I just got lucky. All the songs that I like, it just so happens everybody else ended up liking them too."

The disc jockey, however, was not the only soldier who helped with the party according to Plummer.

"Most soldiers expressed that this was an outstanding idea and many volunteered to help with the setup and break down," said Plummer. "All the soldiers and civilians wanted something special for New Year's, and agreed that this event will more than likely be very successful since soldiers would have a direct chance to participate in several activities. Everyone had the opportunity to dance as this was advertised and encouraged between performances. After the party, the response was overwhelmingly that it was a top success."

One of the reasons for the party's success was the variety. There were nine separate talent performances, ranging from line dancing, singing groups, electric group sliding, instrumentals accompanied with singing and martial arts. Drawings were also held for prizes including t-shirts, hats and wood carving sets. About 300 glow lights were given out via a random toss. About 75 prepaid telephone

cards were also given out on a random basis.

Soldiers enthusiastically counted down the final seconds of the year and 2002 was greeted by the release of hundreds of balloons from netting high above the crowd. Soldiers continued to party into the New Year, until the party concluded with the crowd singing the National Anthem. Several soldiers agreed that the party was a good way to greet 2002.

"It wasn't quite as good as ringing in the millennium in London, but it's the best we can do here and we're having a good time," said Spc. Francisco Quinones, B Co., 27th En. Bn.

"New Year's without alcohol was definitely different," said Spc. Marimon Maskell, Task Force Med Falcon V. "And it was an experience seeing a New Year's Eve party where everyone carried their weapons, but it was a lot of fun."



Disc jockey extraordinaire Spc. August Jover pumps up the crowd.

